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QUESTION OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS
(MALVINAS)

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-sixth year

Letter dated 23 October 1991 from the Permanent
Representatives of Argentina and the United
Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

We have the honour to convey to Your Excellency the text of the Joint Statement by the British and Argentine Governments issued in London and Buenos Aires on 25 September 1991 (see annex).

We request that the present letter and its annex be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 39, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) D. H. A. HANNAY
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
the United Kingdom of Great
Britain and Northern Ireland

(Signed) Jorge VAZQUEZ
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of Argentina

ANNEX

Joint Statement by the British and Argentine Governments

Taking into account the results of the Fifth Meeting of the British-Argentine Working Group on South Atlantic Affairs, held in London from 10 to 12 June 1991, the British and Argentine Governments have issued the present Joint Statement.

Both Governments have agreed that the formula on sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas), South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas, recorded in paragraph 2 of the Joint Statement of 19 October 1989, applies to this Joint Statement and its consequences.

Both Governments have agreed to send jointly the present Statement to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for distribution as an official document of the General Assembly, under the agenda item "Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)", and of the Security Council. The United Kingdom will transmit this Joint Statement to the Presidency and the Commission of the European Community, and the Government of Argentina will do likewise to the Organization of American States.

Both Governments have agreed that annexes I, II, III and IV to the Joint Statement issued in Madrid on 15 February 1990 will be replaced by the following:

I. INTERIM RECIPROCAL INFORMATION AND CONSULTATION SYSTEM

Taking into account the increase of mutual confidence between the United Kingdom and the Argentine Republic, and in order to progress towards the achievement of a more normal situation in the South-West Atlantic, the System will consist of the following provisions:

1. Direct Communication Link

A. The Direct Communication Link between the respective military authorities will be maintained - under the supervision of both Foreign Ministries - in order to ensure the exchange of information to allow adequate reciprocal knowledge of military activities in the South-West Atlantic.

B. The respective military authorities are:

- British Authority: Commander British Forces Falkland Islands (Malvinas).
- Argentine Naval Authority: Commandante Del Area Naval Austral (Ushuaia).

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- Argentine Air Authority: Jefe de la Novena Brigada Aerea (Comodoro Rivadavia).

- C. The Direct Radio Link between the respective authorities which includes voice and/or telex transmissions will be maintained. The Link will continue to be manned on a 24-hour basis and will be tested weekly.
- D. The Communications Plan between units and stations of the Parties will be maintained, with the addition of an alternative telephone link. The military authorities may coordinate directly any necessary technical arrangements.

2. Confidence-Strengthening Measures

- A. The parties will reciprocally provide, through the diplomatic channel, not less than 14 days in advance, written information about movements of 4 or more naval or air units and about exercises involving more than 1,000 troops, when either is carried out within 80 nautical miles of coasts.
- B. Reciprocal notification of identity, intended track and purpose will be given, not less than 48 hours in advance, of naval combatant units that intend to approach closer to coasts than 15 nautical miles. These movements will require mutual agreement.

3. Verification

If questions arise concerning the application of the above confidence-strengthening measures, consultations will take place through the Direct Communication Link. If disagreement should occur, the Parties will have recourse to the diplomatic channel.

4. Reciprocal Visits

Reciprocal visits to military bases and naval units may be agreed through the diplomatic channel.

5. Application of International Practice

Naval and air units of the parties will observe the normal procedures to ensure safety when operating in proximity, in particular the provisions of the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea and the provisions of Annex VI of the Convention on International Civil Aviation of 1944.

In situations not specifically covered by this System, normal international practice will be applied on a reciprocal basis.

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6. Duration

This System will be reviewed at a meeting of the British-Argentine Working Group on South Atlantic Affairs which will take place within one year of the entry into force of this System, on a date to be agreed through the diplomatic channel.

II. MARITIME AND AIR SEARCH AND RESCUE

When communication or coordination is required in relation to maritime and air search and rescue (SAR), the following procedures will apply:

1. The headquarters of the British Forces in the Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas) shall inform the Regional SAR Coordination Centres of the South-West Atlantic Area:

Maritime SAR: Ushuaia Maritime SAR Coordination Centre

Air SAR: Comodoro Rivadavia Air SAR Coordination Centre

2. Maritime SAR operations shall be conducted in accordance with the SAR Manual of the International Maritime Organization and the SAR Manual for Merchant Ships. Air SAR operations shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of Annex XII to the Convention on International Civil Aviation and its amendments.
3. In the event that joint participation in a SAR incident becomes necessary, the headquarters of the British forces in the Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas) and the appropriate Argentine SAR Coordination Centre will coordinate their activities.

III. SAFETY OF NAVIGATION

1. The parties will exchange all relevant information so that Argentina, the Regional Coordinator of Navarea VI, as defined by the International Maritime Organization, may issue the appropriate Notices to Mariners for that area.
2. In order to enhance flight safety, the Parties agreed:
 - A. To facilitate the operation of Argentine Flight Information Centres by supplying the information necessary for Argentina to provide the air traffic control, warning, search and rescue, communication and meteorological services within the Argentine Flight Information Regions (FIR);
 - B. To exchange information between the Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas) and Comodoro Rivadavia (CRV) Flight Information Centre for identification of aircraft in flight in the FIRs, in particular on flights in the vicinity of coastal areas;

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- C. To respond positively in an emergency to requests to provide alternative facilities at their airfields for each other's aircraft and aircraft of third parties;

and

- D. To exchange aeronautical information about airfields of both Parties (navigation, approach and surface facilities).

IV. TERMINAL CONTROL ZONE

To facilitate air traffic control and services, a Terminal Control Zone (CTR) for Mount Pleasant Airport, within the Comodoro Rivadavia Flight Information Region (FIR), is agreed. The technical aspects are set out in the Letter to Operational Agreement approved today which will be forwarded jointly to ICAO during the current month.

The provisions included in this Joint Statement and in the Letter of Operational Agreement will come into force on 9 October 1991.
